

**PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Date: May 4, 2020

Public Started: 8:00 P.M.

Public Ended: 8:33 P.M.

Teleconference

**I. Roll Call**

N. Triano	D. Bradler	B. von Bradsky	R. Sileo	A. Wagner	J. Pierotti	F. Church
X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Also Present:

R. Gamper	R. Wright
X	X

**II. Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Board President, Frank Church.

**III. Open Public Meetings Statement** was read by Board President, Frank Church.

This is to advise the general public and to instruct that it be recorded in the minutes that in compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, entitled the "Open Public Meetings Act," the Park Ridge Board of Education on April 29, 2020 caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 85 Pascack Road, Park Ridge, New Jersey and on April 29, 2020 sent to The Record, 1 Garret Mountain Plaza, P.O. Box 471, Woodland Park, NJ 07424-0471 and The Ridgewood News, 41 Oak Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450-3805 and on April 29, 2020 delivered to the Office of the Municipal Clerk of Park Ridge and the Park Ridge Public Library a meeting notice setting forth the time, date and location of this meeting.

#### IV. 2020/2021 Budget Hearing

Mr. Church informed everyone that the slideshow for the presentation was posted on the district website.

Dr. Gamper and Mr. Wright were introduced. Dr. Gamper began the presentation by reviewing the district enrollment history. He then spoke about the class sizes at the elementary schools. In discussing the budget, Dr. Gamper reviewed the steps involved in preparing it. He then recapped a history of the district's State Aid allocation commenting that this year the number is now \$921,536. Dr. Gamper then gave examples of what the budget funds have been used for in the past and what they will be used for moving forward. He highlighted such programs as Full Day Kindergarten, the Senior Internship program and the OWL House. Dr. Gamper also discussed the use of Technology in the district. He stated that the district's 1:1 laptop program proved beneficial in meeting the challenges of online learning imposed by the school closures. Dr. Gamper also thanked the PTO's for the contributions they make throughout the year to financially supplement and support the schools. Dr. Gamper concluded by reviewing a list of programs and projects which the 2020/21 budget will fund.

Mr. Wright then gave a financial review of the Budget. He spoke about the use of funds being similar to prior years even though Capital seems to take up a larger percentage of the 2020/21 budget. This, Mr. Wright explained, was due to a 2.4 million dollar note payment being made as part of the boiler replacement project. Mr. Wright then reviewed the main areas of increase in the 2020/21 budget. Capital expenses, Mr. Wright explained, while up sharply, were largely related to the aforementioned note payment. Additionally, any funds used in this area are set aside from previous years and do not impact the tax portion of the budget. In reviewing the Salary increase, Mr. Wright explained that the majority of the increase was a result of contractual obligations. There were two additions which included an extra elementary staff member and additional funds for aides. Special Education increases were driven largely by related service needs including additional funds set aside for West Bergen's services. Operations for the district, which represent the maintenance of the buildings and Grounds, was also up slightly. Mr. Wright explained that this was largely due to the successful efforts of the Facilities Director, Mr. Lepore, and his ability to do more projects in house. The final area of increase was with school level supplies. Mr. Wright pointed out that this increase was due to new High School science textbooks and additional online subscriptions.

Mr. Wright then reviewed the Tax levy and explained how the district was using an enrollment waiver to exceed the 2% CAP. He then reviewed several areas of cost control that the district undertakes in order to save money and keep costs down. Examples of these efforts include, sharing services with other entities, receiving health benefit contributions from employees and running in-house special education programs. In recapping the budget, Mr. Wright stated that the average homeowner of a house assessed at \$475,000, would see an increase of \$205 in their taxes.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Church asked if there were any questions. There were none.

**V. FINANCE RESOLUTIONS**

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools in conjunction with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary that the following actions be taken:

F1. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following:

**RESOLUTION FOR THE 2020/21 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET**

Current General Expense (Funds 11)	\$32,307,724
Capital Outlay (Fund 12)	\$ 4,446,864
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$36,754,588</b>
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 489,452
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES/APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$37,244,040</b>
and	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GENERAL FUND tax levy \$30,458,899 is approved to support Current General Expense and \$748,889 to support Debt Service, for the 2020/21 school year budget.

M:RS S:DB  
NT DB BVB RS AW JP FC  
Y Y Y Y Y Y Y

**VII. Adjournment – 8:33 PM**

M:AW S:BvB  
NT DB BVB RS AW JP FC  
Y Y Y Y Y Y Y

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Robert Wright  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary